

Kansas Preservation

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REAL PLACES. REAL STORIES.

Historic Preservation Conference

See story on page 18.





Newsletter of the Cultural
Resources Division
Kansas Historical Society

Contents

3

Historic Preservation Fund Grants

5

Nominations to the National
Register of Historic Places

10

Old Barn Illuminates History of
Flooding

14

The Case of the Missing Headers

15

A New Kansas Archaeology
Month Brochure

16

Photography for Archeologists

18

Historic Preservation Conference

KANSAS PRESERVATION

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Preservation in the News

The Historic Railroad Depot in Leavenworth was heavily damaged at 1 a.m. February 18, 2008. Police cited a drunken driver for exceeding 60 miles per hour in the 30 mile per hour zone. The driver headed straight into the main floor wall of the depot, which now serves as a community center. The collision left a large hole in a brick wall of the building and destroyed historic windows, brick, and decorative sandstone.

Insurance will cover a large portion of the repairs to the brick wall and windows damaged in the collision. Expenses not covered by insurance will be added to an existing Kansas Rehabilitation Tax Credit application covering previously proposed work for a deteriorated chimney elsewhere in the building. The state tax credit program provides a state income tax credit equal to 25 percent of qualifying rehabilitation costs.

The former Union Depot was added to the National Register March 11, 1982.



To read more about the Leavenworth Depot,
see the February 20, 2008 article "Community Center
opens after damaging car crash" at
leavenworthtimes.com.

Historic Preservation Fund Grants

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) provides approximately \$37 million each year for a grant program to encourage private and non-federal investments in historic preservation efforts across the nation. These grants provide seed money to protect our irreplaceable heritage for future generations. Funded from the Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts, these matching grant funds are awarded to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) to assist with efforts to identify, protect, and preserve properties eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

As a ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, Kansas Congressman Todd Tiahrt has a direct interest in this program. In a recent interview with Preservation Action, Congressman Tiahrt expressed the importance of preserving our heritage.

"I came to realize there's a connection we all can make to history and to historic places," Congressman Tiahrt said. "History is a big part of our lives and historic sites help tell that history."

Since 1968 the program has awarded more than \$1 billion in grant funds to states, territories, American Indian tribes, local governments, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Congressman Tiahrt is proud of the Historic Preservation Fund, as well as other federal grant programs that preserve heritage. At the beginning of the 110th Congress, he became the ranking minority member, and was able to support preservation funding. He advocated \$10 million for the



Kansas Congressman Todd Tiahrt, Wichita, met with Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick Zollner in 2006 to discuss historic preservation issues. Tiahrt serves as the ranking minority member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Preserve America grant program, which has awarded \$5 million to 140 projects in 40 states since its inception in 2006. With Tiahrt's leadership the program will make \$7.5 million available for 2008 grants.

Communities benefit greatly from the incentive of these types of preservation grants. "Preservation funds inject a little to get the ball rolling," Congressman Tiahrt said. "The Dunbar Theater in downtown Wichita is one example. Federal funds injected a little bit of stimulus that's easily matched by the community – federal government and local government work together with the private sector."

With the many demands on the federal budget, Congressman Tiahrt is hoping to find a way to keep preservation programs from continually competing with other needs.

"Programs about protecting historic significance, that preserve our culture, get shortchanged because history becomes a lower priority than emergencies," Congressman Tiahrt said. "That's not the right way to do it. I've been

working very closely with our chairman (Representative Norm Dicks from Washington. We both agree that we should set up emergency funding in a separate account so that we're not constantly putting pressure on programs like Preserve America. Cultural programs shouldn't have to compete with firefighting."

In order for these preservation programs to remain a priority, Congressman Tiahrt recommends strong involvement among Kansas communities. "If we want to have continued success in preserving America from one administration to the next, the continuity needs to be at the local level where people in the community are continually reminding their elected members of the great value in our historic properties and that we need to protect them."

In Kansas the Cultural Resources Division of the Kansas Historical Society serves as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and administers the grant fund in Kansas for the preservation of the built environment and archeological resources. Up to 60 percent of the cost of eligible activities can be funded with this program. Through property identification and evaluation, communities may assess their historic properties and develop plans for recognition and preservation. Eligible products include preservation plans, surveys, National Register nominations, design-review guidelines, and brochures. At least ten percent of the HPF is passed through to Certified Local Governments (CLG) to support preservation activities at the local level. For more information on the HPF visit kshe.org/resource/hpfinfo.htm or the National Park Service at nps.gov/history/nps/hpf.

Preservation Action

Preservation Action is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization created in 1974 to serve as the national grassroots lobby for historic preservation. Preservation Action seeks to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training and through direct contact with elected representatives.

For more information, visit the Preservation Action website at preservationaction.org/

The Historic Sites Board of Review recently awarded \$109,485 to 10 Kansas communities for the 2008 Historic Preservation Fund program. Communities requested a total of \$241,665 for 17 different projects. This year's grant recipients are:

City of Abilene (CLG), \$23,175 for an Abilene Downtown Historic District nomination

Historic Downtown Alma Committee, \$3,600 for an Alma Downtown Historic District nomination

Belleville Main Street Program, \$6,280 for a survey of downtown Belleville

Collyer Community Alliance Association, \$4,200 for a survey of historic downtown Collyer

Council Grove PRIDE Committee, \$5,430 for a survey of downtown Council Grove

City of Dodge City (CLG), \$10,800 for a Downtown Dodge City Historic District nomination

City of Fort Scott, \$6,000 for a Fort Scott Downtown Historic District nomination

Friends of Historic Girard, \$18,000 for a survey of Historic Girard Square

City of Manhattan (CLG), \$12,000 for an archeological survey of areas around the city of Manhattan

City of Wichita (CLG), \$20,000 for a redevelopment plan for the Historic Central Business District

A consultant will be hired by the Belleville Main Street Program to survey historic buildings in downtown Belleville with the aid of a \$6,280 grant through the Historic Preservation Fund.



Historic Sites Board of Review

by Sarah Martin
National Register Coordinator

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review nominated 16 properties to the National Register of Historic Places in February. At its regular quarterly meeting held at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, the board voted to list the properties in the Register of Historic Kansas Places, the state register, and to forward the nominations to the office of the keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C., to be evaluated by professional staff. If they concur with the board's findings, the properties will be included in the National Register.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historically significant properties. Properties must be significant for one or more of the four criteria for evaluation. Under Criterion A, properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Under Criterion B, properties can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Under Criterion C, properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Under Criterion D, properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

In the past, properties in Kansas were often nominated under Criterion C for their significance as an excellent example of a particular architectural style. This meeting of the Historic Sites Board of Review was somewhat unusual in that 12 of the properties were nominated under Criterion A, one under Criterion D, and three properties under Criterion B. This meeting also illustrates another sometimes misunderstood aspect regarding National Register listing. While it is the *National Register of Historic Places*, the list recognizes properties of local, statewide, and national significance. The vast majority of properties in Kansas are listed under local significance. Both the Kanorado Archaeological District and the H. D. Lee Company complex were approved as nationally significant.

Washington Grade School – 209 South Locust, Pittsburg, Crawford County

Partially funded by the Public Works Administration, the Washington Grade School was built in 1938 to replace an 1888 elementary school at the same location. Thomas W. Williamson & Company of Topeka, a firm widely known for its design of schools in Kansas, designed the new building and oversaw its construction. The one-story, hipped-roof, brick structure reflects the Colonial Revival-style that was common in public buildings of the early 20th century, and is nominated for its association to local educational history. Currently vacant, the school served as an adult education facility from 1980 to 1996. The school was nominated under Criterion A as part of the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* multiple property submission.

Washington Grade School, Pittsburg





Brandt Hotel – 400 Missouri Street, Alma, Wabaunsee County

Built in 1887, the Brandt Hotel is a two-story native stone commercial building located on a prominent corner in downtown Alma. The building was nominated under Criterion A for its association with the development of downtown Alma and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good example of an Italianate-style commercial building. The building's Italianate-style features include an ornamental pressed metal cornice and smooth-cut stone blocks that accentuate the corner entrance to form quoins. Also known as the Alma Hotel, Joseph and Cristena Brandt built this hotel to serve the growing late 19th century community.

Kanorado Archaeological District – Northeast and Southeast of Exit 1, I-70, Kanorado vicinity, Sherman County

The Kanorado Archaeological District consists of three archeological sites (14SN00101, 14SN00105, and 14SN00106) southeast of Kanorado. All three of these sites contain undisturbed subsurface deposits dating to early Paleoindian times. Both Clovis and Folsom archeological cultures may be represented in the Kanorado sites. Site 14SN00105 also has at least two components that date to the Paleoindian period. Collectively, these are unique because of the paucity of sites, especially campsites, and information

about the Paleoindian period in the western Kansas area. The proposed Kanorado Archaeological District encompasses three of the few known stratified Paleoindian sites in Kansas and was nominated under Criterion D with national significance for its potential to yield information important to regional prehistory.

H.D. Lee Company Complex – 248 North Santa Fe, Salina, Saline County

The H. D. Lee Company became one of the world's largest clothing manufacturing companies and is best known today as the manufacturer of Lee Jeans. The company's former complex is located on the north end of downtown Salina and consists of three connected brick buildings dating to 1904 and 1927. The complex was nominated under Criteria A and B with national significance for its association with entrepreneur Henry Daniel Lee and the garment industry. Lee operated primarily in the wholesale grocery and hardware markets during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He began manufacturing his own clothing brand and developed a pair of one-piece denim coveralls named Unionalls. The Unionall, invented in Salina, thrust the company into the business of garment production. The company moved its headquarters to Kansas City in 1950.



Kelly Mills – 400-414 South Main, Hutchinson, Reno County

Hutchinson entrepreneur William Kelly organized the Kelly Milling Company in 1906 and continued expanding his operations into the 1920s. The plant operated during a time of great transition in the milling industry as the process evolved from simple stone grinding by local millers to the mass-production of flour by milling conglomerates for an international market. The complex includes an office

Left: Brandt Hotel, Alma.

*Top: Kanorado Archaeological District, Kanorado;
H.D. Lee Company Complex, Salina; Kelly Mills, Hutchinson.*

building, warehouse, power station, and garage, and was nominated under Criterion A for its association with early 20th century agriculture and industry.

**Brown Hotel – 519-523 Main Street,
Neodesha, Wilson County**

This nomination amends the 1995 National Register listing for the Brown Hotel in Neodesha. The original nomination focused on the 1896 Brown Hotel and its 1922 addition. Since the time of the original nomination, historical research has further clarified the property's history. In about 1904 the hotel's original owners constructed an adjacent building that had leasable space on the first floor and additional hotel rooms on the second floor. The two buildings were connected with both an interior corridor and a porch/veranda that stretched across the front of the 1896 building. The property was nominated under Criterion A for its association with the commercial development of Neodesha, under Criterion B, for its association with Carrie Brown, the 19th century businesswoman who commissioned the hotel, and under Criterion C as a good example of a late 19th century commercial hotel.

**Dunbar Theatre – 1007 North Cleveland, Wichita,
Sedgwick County**

The Dunbar Theatre was built in 1941 during a time in movie theater history when theater owners were moving away from downtowns and into outlying neighborhoods. The theater's history is linked to that of the surrounding McAdams neighborhood, a traditionally African American area northeast of downtown Wichita. The building was nominated under Criterion A as part of the *Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas* multiple property submission

for its association with the performing arts and social history of Wichita's McAdams Neighborhood and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of modern theater design.

**Colonial Fox Theatre – 409 North Broadway,
Pittsburg, Crawford County**

Previously listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places, the 1919 Colonial Fox Theatre was nominated under Criterion A as part of the *Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas* multiple property submission for its association with Pittsburg's entertainment history and under Criterion C for its Italian Renaissance Revival architecture. Between the two world wars, the Colonial Theatre, as it was called before the 1950s, was one of several theaters that anchored downtown entertainment and nightlife in southeast Kansas' largest city. Today the Colonial Fox is the only remaining theater from the inter-war period in Pittsburg or Crawford County. Distinctive architectural features include a denticulated cornice, raked tapestry brick with terra cotta detail embellishments, and an open arched portico entrance.

**Lake Nemaha Dam Guardrails – South of Seneca on K-63,
Nemaha County**

Lake Nemaha is located along K-63 south of Seneca and was constructed during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). K-63 crosses atop the lake's dam, which features 200 distinctive quarried stone posts or piers on either side of the road. The freestanding posts along the west side are situated seven feet apart, while those on the east side are set within a stone wall and sit 17 feet apart. Although the construction of the entire park and lake can be attributed to CCC workers, these features atop the dam



Left to right: Brown Hotel, Neodesha;
Dunbar Theatre, Wichita; Colonial
Fox Theatre, Pittsburg.
Bottom: Lake Nemaha Dam
Guardrails, Seneca.

are the most intact example of their work. They were nominated under Criterion A as part of the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property submission and under Criterion C for their distinct reflection of rustic park architecture common to New Deal-era parks.

Agra Lake and Park – West edge of Agra – 1/2 mile north of U.S. 36, Agra, Phillips County

Agra Lake and Park was built from 1934 to 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. The 35-acre site located on the west edge of Agra was nominated under Criterion A as part of the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property submission for its association with the government work programs of the 1930s. In addition to an earthen dam and spillway, the current site includes two limestone entrance markers, two limestone shelter houses, a limestone bathhouse, and two limestone privies. Although the lakebed is now dry, its original capacity was 143-acre feet. The city of Agra is currently restoring the site.

Oxley Barn – 2740 County Road 74, Quinter vicinity, Gove County

Built by farmer Frank Oxley in 1911, the barn and surrounding property were sold to local auctioneer, farmer,

and politician Joseph Flora in 1916. Beginning in 1931, Flora held livestock and merchandise sales at the barn, which attracted buyers from throughout the region, thus providing a strong market for local farmers and stockmen. The barn was nominated under Criterion B for its association with Flora and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an early 20th century gambrel-roof livestock barn.

First Presbyterian Church – 308 South Crawford, Fort Scott, Bourbon County

Designed by architect Ernst Brostrom and completed in 1925, Fort Scott's First Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of Collegiate Gothic-style architecture. The church sanctuary features stained glass windows made by Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Missouri, impressive Gothic-inspired trusses, and seating for nearly 1,000 people. The church is located on a corner lot at the southwest edge of downtown and has hosted many community gatherings and events, including the funeral service of author and Fort Scott native Gordon Parks in 2006. The building was nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

Left to right, Agra Lake and Park, Agra; Oxley Barn, Quinter; First Presbyterian Church, Fort Scott.





Left to right, Hitschmann Double Arch Bridge, Hitschmann; Hitschmann Cattle Underpass Bridge, Hitschmann; Beaver Creek Native Stone Bridge, Beaver.

Hitschmann Double Arch Bridge – Northeast 110 Avenue South & Northeast 190 Road – 1/2 mile east on Northeast 190 Road, Hitschmann vicinity, Barton County

Located on a rural county road near Hitschmann, this double-arch limestone bridge spans Coal Creek. As noted on the decorative bridge keystones, the bridge was completed in 1941 as a Works Projects Administration (WPA) project. The locally quarried stone features a rusticated finish and retains its tool markings. The county-owned bridge was nominated under Criterion A for its association with both the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* and the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* multiple property submissions. The bridge was also nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a unique double-arch limestone bridge.

Hitschmann Cattle Underpass Bridge – Northeast 110 Avenue South and Northeast 190 Road - 3/8 mile east on Northeast 190 Road, Hitschmann vicinity, Barton County

This limestone bridge is located less than one-quarter mile from the Hitschmann Double Arch Bridge (noted above) on the same rural county road. It features a utilitarian appearance with locally quarried smooth-cut limestone blocks. The bridge was completed in 1941 as a Works Projects Administration (WPA) project and was nominated under Criterion A for its association with both the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* and the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* multiple property submissions.

Beaver Creek Native Stone Bridge – Northeast 50 Avenue South and Northeast 230 Road – 1/4 miles south on Northeast 50 Avenue, Beaver vicinity, Barton County

Located on a rural county road near Beaver, this single-arch limestone bridge spans the headwaters of Beaver Creek. The decorative keystone notes the bridge's 1941 construction

date. The locally quarried stone features a rusticated finish and retains its tool markings. The bridge was nominated under Criterion A for its association with both the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* and the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* multiple property submissions and under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a unique single-arch limestone bridge.

Bridge #218 – Off System Bridge – Northeast 60 Avenue South and Northeast 220 Road – 500 feet west on 220 Road, Beaver vicinity, Barton County

This concrete bridge with native limestone supports and wing walls is located on a rural county road near Beaver and crosses a tributary of Beaver Creek. The bridge superstructure, curbing, and side rails are made of concrete and are supported by a limestone base. "WPA 1940" is stamped into the concrete curb on the bridge. This Works Projects Administration-constructed bridge was nominated under Criterion A for its association with the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property submission.

Kansans can feel proud to have a large and growing representation of these tangible links to our past. Listing in the National Register can qualify a property for financial incentives such as rehabilitation grants and tax credits. For additional information on the National Register program and associated financial incentives, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 785-272-8681, ext. 240, or visit kshs.org.

Bridge #218 – Off System Bridge, Beaver.





Old Barn Illuminates History of Flooding

By Jim D. Feagins
Independent Archeological Consultant

John and Susie Commons' barn as it appeared in the summer of 1995.

Sometimes information useful to historians and archeologists (and in this case, hydrologists) comes from unexpected places. High-water flood marks recorded inside an old horse barn in northern Bourbon County provided a nice complement to the official government record of flood information for the Little Osage River.

This “folk record” left in the historic barn also forms a baseline to provide some correlation with the archeological record obtained from excavations at the nearby Meech Brothers site (14BO3462) northwest of Fort Scott. Here, over the centuries, layered evidence of various prehistoric occupations became buried by silt from flooding. This multi-component prehistoric site and the nearby historic farmstead site (14BO3463) containing the barn, are located on what is now known locally as the “old John Commons place.” This farmstead resides on a stream terrace within the river’s floodplain.

The barn was an interesting structure as it contained the record of many decades of housing teams of workhorses. The structure documented how these animals and the harness equipment they used were cared for and housed. This information enhanced the archeological value of the site, but it is another set of records found in the barn that makes this site unique.

Prior to John Commons’ death in 1961, he kept a record in his barn of some of the highest flood levels from the Little Osage River. On the side of the barn’s runway stood large wooden pillars used to support the hayloft. On one of these pillars, Commons scribed horizontal marks, sometimes with a pencil, but more commonly with a sharp object (probably a nail), showing the crest or maximum height of major floods. In a few cases, he wrote the year the flood occurred beside the mark. Surely Mr. Commons had no idea how these marks would not only provide answers for archeologists decades later, but also inspire more questions.

The questions arose from the nearby prehistoric Meech Brothers site, regarding flooding conditions that may have affected the area during and after its human occupation. The site’s Cuesta phase occupation (circa A.D. 500) contained permanent houses constructed with relatively large, widely spaced, but deeply set posts. Some of the excavated soil stains formed by the large



During floods, John Commons recorded high water levels on this post in his barn.

posts showed that they were deeper than their holes could have been easily dug by hand. These prehistoric people did not have access to the hand-operated posthole diggers (soil jobbers and bucket augers) of early historic times, let alone to the power augers used today. Some of their postholes appeared to be much deeper than a human arm could reach. An alternative scenario can explain these deep posts. With time this component's soil horizon had been considerably buried by layers of silt from repeated over bank deposits from the river. If some of these deposits were formed in and around these house structures while the posts were still in place, this would make the posts appear to have been set deeper in the soil than the postholes were actually dug. This raised questions in the minds of archeologists. Were these large houses often inundated? Were the inhabitants often flooded out of their homes? Or were they only occupied on a seasonal basis, perhaps at times of the year when flooding was not common? An even larger question is why a mostly sedentary community (as these huge posts suggest) would have been constructed at this location in the first place, if it was subject to frequent flooding 1,000 to 1,500 years ago? These and other environmental and cultural questions needed to be considered during the excavation of the site in the summer of 1995.

Specialized soil and other studies, coupled with the archeological data, were necessary to help answer these questions. At the time of excavation, a soil scientist collected data from deep soil cores within and adjacent to the site.

Archeologists working on the site also wanted to obtain information on the frequency and height of floods during the historic period. That data would serve as a possible baseline to

Flood Reference Marks

**Elevation (in feet)
above site surface**

Flood year

9.6

1986

7.6

1915

8.5

1941

7.3

Year unknown

7.0

Year unknown

6.3

Year unknown

5.4

Year unknown

Archeologists studying the barn and the nearby prehistoric site recorded the flood data found on the barn's posts.

compare with the more distant past of prehistoric times. Of concern was why the Cuesta folks (and others before and after them, since the site is multicomponent) chose to live at this location and what their immediate environment was like.

During the excavation of the Meech brothers site,

visitors stopped by to watch, including Wayne Harlow, who grew up on a neighboring farm and used to work part-time for John and Susie Commons. During the early and mid-1940s, Harlow often harnessed and cared for the Commons' teams and helped store loose hay in the barn. Stories abound in the local community about this family's habit of waiting until the last minute to escape the rising flood waters, then being rescued by boat. More often, they simply had to wade through rising water to get to higher ground.

During his visit to the site that summer, Harlow told of the old flood record in the nearby Commons' barn – located a few hundred feet from the prehistoric site. Such a flood record would provide useful insight relative to the investigation. By using a transit, archeologists Bert Wetherill and Jim D. Feagins were able to take the elevations of the marks recorded on the barn's pillar, thus determining the height of floods above any location on the site, including the tops of the post molds left by the prehistoric structures.

The oldest identified flood date from the barn was 1915. The most recent record (and, incidentally, the highest mark) was recorded by Wayne Harlow on an adjacent pillar, when he returned to the empty barn just after the October 3, 1986 flood. The transit work showed that the 1986 flood waters would have been 3.23 meters (10.6 feet) deep in the very lowest part of the site's surface where an over bank flood chute had been eroded in historic times. This was the ever-deepening part of the site that was repeatedly scoured of its plow zone soil by flooding. The 1915 flood was the second highest flood recorded in the barn. Its height was just 1.02 feet below the 1986 flood crest. A 1941 flood was still lower by approximately four inches. If a flood like the

record-breaking 1986 flood had occurred while the prehistoric houses were standing on the site, the depth of the water around the structures would have been approximately 8.3 feet. The tops of the posthole stains were a little higher than the lowest elevation on the site. Of course, it was unknown if a rare flood of that caliber occurred while the site was actually occupied by the Cuesta people.

The barn record was a good addition to the records from a government gauging station located on the old U.S. 69 bridge, a little more than five miles east of the prehistoric site. Operated by the Water Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey, the Fulton gauge is the only one on the Little Osage drainage basin in Kansas. The barn data did not contain the breadth or depth of the government data recorded at the Fulton gauge, but it was interesting to compare them with each other.

The Fulton gauge has been in continuous operation since November 1948. It keeps track of the time, date, water height, and discharge (the amount of water flowing past the gage in a second). The October 3, 1986 flood was the highest on record with a gauge height of 35.21 feet and a peak discharge of 62,800 cubic feet per second.

At the time of the Meech Brothers site excavation in 1995, the second and third highest floods on the Fulton gauge (April 28, 1994, and July 1, 1969) were 2.60 feet and 5.18 feet lower than the 1986 flood. (Since then, the third place at the Fulton gauge has been replaced by a July 1, 2007 reading of just 2.71 feet below the 1986 flood.) However, the barn data nicely supplemented the "record books" as it went back at least until 1915, starting 33 years earlier than the government record.

Flooding from the Little Osage and Marmaton Rivers in Bourbon county left residents of communities like Fort Scott (below) looking for higher ground.



John Commons clearly marked only the very highest floods. None of the six floods recorded by Commons in the barn were lower than 4.27 feet below the record breaking 1986 flood, and three of those were higher than the second highest flood on the government record. Clearly the 1915, 1941, and two other unidentified floods prior to 1948 reached significant levels in the Little Osage River floodplain. During the 79-year period with both records combined (1915 to 2007), there were only eight floods that came within five feet below the huge crest of the 1986 flood.

It was fortunate that Harlow recorded the October 3, 1986 flood. The mark served as the “Rosetta Stone” or the basis to compare the barn record with the gauge record. If the 45.9 years of the Fulton gauge’s data (up to 1994) is extrapolated to the Meech Brothers’ site, the surface elevation on which the prehistoric houses were constructed would have been inundated by 22 floods. That averages a little less than one flood every two years. However, that extrapolation is probably somewhat misleading as Commons did not record every flood.

What does this suggest for the frequency of inundation of the prehistoric structures that once occupied the site? While they were undoubtedly flooded from time to time, the amount of flooding in prehistoric times may or may not be similar to that in historic times. Even if one were to assume that the climate 1,400 or so years ago was very similar to that in historic times, there are still many other factors to consider. With considerably more prairie grasses and stream side or gallery trees and negligible amounts of soil under cultivation (i.e., a few American Indian gardens), surface waters would have had considerably more time to soak into the ground; thus, runoff from the uplands may have

been somewhat diminished as well as slowed down before reaching streams leading into the river. Also the size, shape, and gradient of the streambed adjacent to the site may have been different than at present.

The barn’s proximity to the site allowed archeologists to determine the depths of major flooding in relation to various cultural features and elevations on the site, if one would assume that the present cross-section of this valley and other conditions were similar to that at various times in the past. This information may be of some use as a general starting point when attempting to reconstruct the frequency and depths of inundation before, during, and after the site was occupied.

The flood record in the old barn was a nice footnote to history; it provided hydrological information on a portion of the Little Osage drainage area during an earlier time period than was available in the government files from the area’s gauging station. It appears that the use of this type of old barn data is unique among archeological studies in Kansas.

No one has lived on the Commons’ farmstead for more than 45 years. Most of the old buildings were not cared for and have fallen down. However, the barn was structurally sound and in relatively good shape during the 1995 excavation. Since that time, the barn has burned and an interesting footnote to history is gone. The barn was a cultural, historical, and environmental document. Fortunately, part of the unique data from the barn was recorded prior to its demise and its archeological record still remains for now.

EARTH :: WIND :: WATER :: FIRE



March 21, 2008 – January 4, 2009

FORCES of NATURE

Kansans have always struggled with ways to survive the extremes in climate. Learn about their stories and how people today are adapting to and preserving the environment when you visit the *Forces of Nature* exhibit in the Kansas Museum of History’s Special Exhibits Gallery in Topeka. The exhibit, which runs through January 4, 2009, features a storm shelter, items from the Greensburg tornado, and images of major Kansas storms. kshs.org/places/museum



by Dan Prosser
Kansas Historical Society Architect

The Case of the Missing Headers

While doing restoration work at Grinter Place State Historic Site in Kansas City, the Kansas Historical Society discovered a mystery. The brick wall on the front of the house was missing a key structural component.



Traditional load-bearing brick masonry has walls that are thick. They have two or more layers, or wythes, of brick next to each other. The wythes must be tied together for stability. Headers usually serve this purpose.

A header is a brick set sideways, spanning two wythes. They appear as half-sized bricks on the face of the wall. There are many ways headers can be installed. Flemish bond, for instance, has every other brick in every row, or course, set sideways as a header. Common bond, on the other hand, has a single course, perhaps every seventh along the height of the wall, consisting entirely of headers.

The brick house at Grinter Place was built in the 1850s, so one would expect to find some kind of header pattern. Both the side and back walls were made using common bond, with every seventh

Regardless, the wall was showing some problems. It was bowing out under the windows, where water had gotten in at the sills, frozen, and pushed out the bricks. The bricks would have to be disassembled, the windows repaired, and the bricks re-laid.

In doing so, the staff discovered the answer to the mystery. They found something they had never seen before. There actually was a header course. It consisted of bricks set at an angle, forming a kind of diamond pattern. They were hidden headers. Perhaps the builders thought that the front would look more elegant if there were no headers showing. They went to the trouble of laying a diagonal course then cutting bricks for the outer wythe into triangular shapes to fit between the angled headers.

Even if the bond was created for aesthetic purposes, it seems to have stood the test of time. The parts of the wall not under the windows were still tied together. The staff left the diagonal bricks in place, took photos (since they hope that the bricks will never be exposed again), added modern stainless steel ties as a backup, and re-laid the outer wythe. If the sills leak in the future, this “belt-and-suspenders” approach might prevent the walls from bowing out again.

Top, Common bond.
Below, Flemish bond.

course a header course. The front wall of the house was different. There appeared to be no headers whatsoever. It looked like what is called running bond. This is common today, when buildings have only a single layer of brick veneer tied to a wood frame or concrete block backup wall.

At first, the staff working on the project thought perhaps someone in the past had cut off the outer wythe, including all the headers that would have attached it to the inner wythe. When the new outer wythe was installed, they may have used metal ties, a common practice today.

Top, Grinter Place, Kansas City. Below, When the bricks of the outer wythe were removed, the Historical Society staff discovered an unexpected course of angled headers. The bricks were re-laid according to the original bond pattern, with stainless steel ties added for good measure.

A New Kansas Archaeology Month Brochure

April is Kansas Archaeology Month, and the Professional Archaeologists of Kansas (PAK) aim to educate people about what it means to be a professional archeologist and what a professional archeologist can do to steer cultural resource compliance projects to a successful completion.

The brochure, "Professional Archaeologists: Your Guide to Navigating the Project Clearance Highway," asks and answers a series of questions:

- Who are these professional archeologists and what makes them professionals?
- How do you find one?
- Why can't you just send an artifact collector or land survey crew from your office to the project area to look around?
- What do they do out there and why do they have to write a report and make recommendations?

This leaflet supplements last year's brochure, "Getting the Archaeological Green Light for Your Project: A Basic Guide to Complying with Laws Regarding Archaeological Sites," which provides information on successfully following the Section 106 process. The current brochures will be distributed to a similar adult audience of public officials, project designers, engineers, architects, planners, and developers who work in government agencies and private companies that undertake federally permitted or funded land-altering projects.

Contributors to Kansas Archaeology Month in 2008 are Brockington & Associates; Nebraska-Kansas Area Office,

Bureau of Reclamation; Oklahoma Office, Bureau of Reclamation; Kansas Anthropological Association; Emma Balsiger Foundation; Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.; Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Kansas State University; Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.; Riley County Historical Society; Historic Preservation Associates, LLC; and Kansas City Archaeological Society.

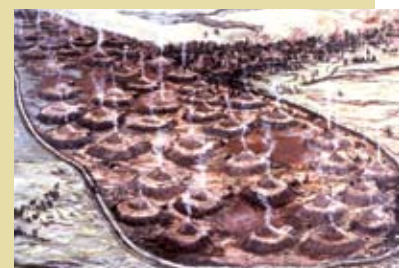
PAK board members Lauren Ritterbush and Donna Roper distributed "Green Light" brochures at the All District Partnering Event, sponsored by the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Kansas Contractors Association, February 13-14 in Manhattan. Both the 2007 and 2008 brochures will be available for distribution at the Kansas Transportation Engineers Conference in April, also in Manhattan.

To obtain copies, please contact Virginia Wulfkuhle at vwulfkuhle@kshs.org or Donna Roper at droper@ksu.edu.



Reminder for KATP Field School

Compare the scene at the Pawnee Indian village on the Republican River in about 1820, as recreated by artist Darrell Combs, with the modern aerial view showing the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site. You can participate in the investigation of this premier Kansas archeological site May 31-June 15, 2008. The registration packet for the Kansas Archeology Training Program (not interactive) is on our web site at kshs.org/resource/katpcurrent.htm.



Photography for Archeologists

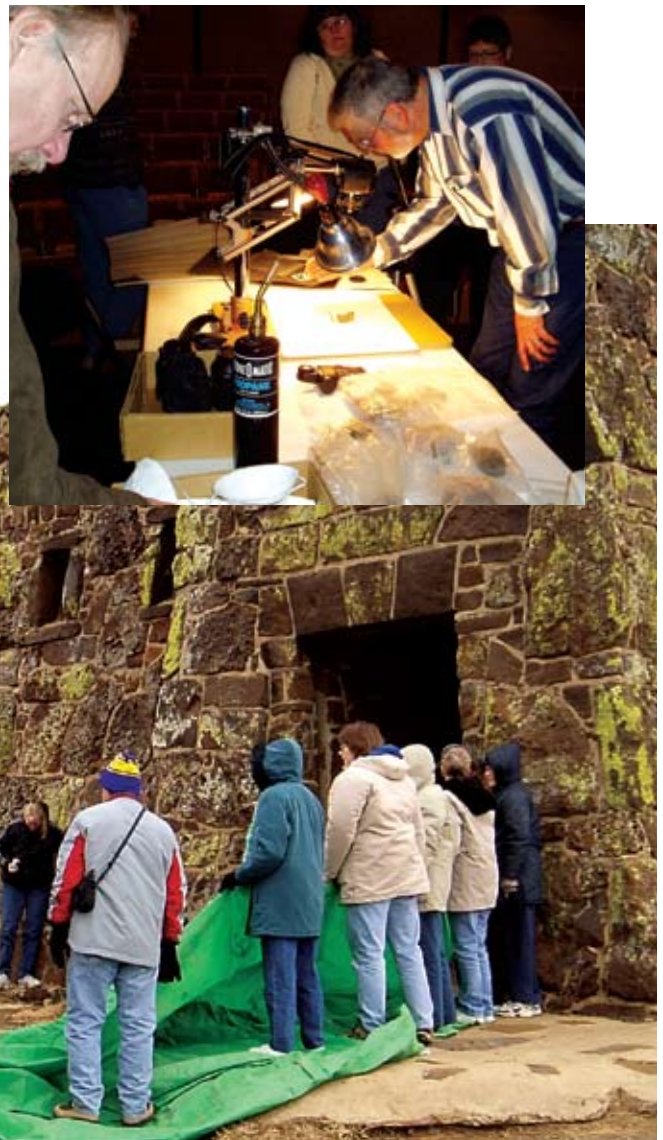
Through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on experience, 30 students learned about photographic documentation of archeological evidence. Kansas City photographer Craig Cooper and Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) archeologist Tim Weston were the instructors. The Department of Social Services at Bethany College cosponsored the event and provided the meeting room.

The class schedule included basic concepts of photography, photographic equipment and films, copy stand artifact photography, large format photography, digital photography and the manipulation of digital images, and the storage and filing of photographs. A field trip to Coronado Heights on a blustery Saturday afternoon demonstrated techniques for shooting photos in difficult archeological field situations. Participants asked many questions and came away with valuable information and improved skills.

The KAA and KSHS instituted winter seminars in 2005 as a way for KAA members enrolled in the program to advance more quickly through the certification levels. Before this, almost all required classes were offered at the summer field schools. All have been well attended. The photography course fulfilled a requirement for two categories of KAA certification: Advanced Archeological Crew Member and Advanced Archeological Laboratory Technician.

Students learn how to photograph archeological evidence in class. Bottom, The class took a field trip to Coronado Heights, near Lindsborg, to gain photography experience in difficult situations.

Field and laboratory photography was the subject of the 2008 Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) Certification Seminar, February 17-18 in Lindsborg.



Historic Sites Board of Review

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review is a group of 11 professionals from various fields that meets quarterly to review and recommend nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places, and award preservation planning and rehabilitation grants. As prescribed by the Kansas Historic Preservation Act of 1977 (K.S.A. 75-2719), the board is comprised of the following members: the governor or the governor's designee, the state historic preservation officer or such officer's designee, and nine members appointed by the governor for three-year terms. At least one member must be professionally qualified in each of the following disciplines: architecture, history, prehistoric archeology, historical archeology, and architectural history.

Jennie Chinn, State Historic Preservation Officer
Craig Crosswhite, Ness City, chair
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita, governor's designee, vice chair
John W. Hoopes, Lawrence
Nancy Horst, Winfield
Leo Oliva, Stockton
Billie Marie Porter, Neodesha
Daniel Sabatini, Lawrence
David H. Sachs, Manhattan
James E. Sherow, Manhattan
Margaret Wood, Topeka

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CONTACT US

2008 Kansas Historic Preservation Conference

As we near April 24, plans are being finalized for this year's state historic preservation conference in Hutchinson.

Included are several regional and national speakers representing the themes of this year's conference – “green,” sustainability, and architecture of the recent past. Tours will also be offered as well as a hands-on workshop.

Beginning Thursday, Patrice Frey, director of Sustainability Research at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will open the conference speaking on promoting preservation to combat climate change. Afternoon sessions will vary from technical issues to state and national programs. Julia Manglitz from Treanor Architects will speak about cleaning/maintaining masonry. Brenda Spencer and Christy Davis will present their findings on the SHPO's recent statewide barn survey. Megan Brown from the National Park Service will speak about the Save America's Treasures and Preserve America grant programs. Kansas Preservation Alliance will complete the day with a silent auction and the annual awards ceremony. Afterward, the historic Fox Theatre will be showing the 1955 movie *Picnic*, which was filmed in the Hutchinson area, for conference attendees.

Friday's breakfast will be served at the Walcott House, a National Register-listed property that utilized the State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program for masonry and porch repairs. A tax credit presentation and discussion panel will follow that includes representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service, a financial institution, and a developer. SHPO programs will have informational sessions on how to list property on the National Register of Historic Places as well as how to successfully complete a Heritage Trust Fund grant application. The afternoon will feature a hands-on wood window workshop with Dennis Brown and Mike Goans of Lawrence and tours of both downtown Hutchinson and the Houston Whiteside residential historic district. James Ward, assistant professor from the University of Charleston, will present a case study on a historic green church and how “new” technologies compare to traditional building techniques. Please note, the tours are walking tours, so comfortable

shoes are recommended. The evening events include speaker Dr. Carroll Van West, professor at Middle Tennessee State University, presenting a lively talk on roadside architecture – those unique types of architecture that dot our two-lane highways. To end the evening, local '50s band, King Midas, will be performing for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Saturday, the final day of the conference, will showcase various programs available for historic properties. Amy Cole, National Trust Mountains/Plains Office, will discuss programs offered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A new SHPO program, Partnership Historic Sites, will be introduced and is a tax credit program for not-for-profit organizations. State archeologist, Dr. Robert Hoard, will discuss how new technologies are used in archeology. Concluding the day's sessions, Angela Shearer from the National Park Service will provide a presentation on modern architecture.

Registration and hotel information are available at kshs.org/resource/preservationconf.htm. For mail-in registration form or further information, contact Kim Smith, 785-272-8681, ext. 227; ksmith@kshs.org.



Historic Preservation Conference Schedule



Thursday

9 a.m.–1 p.m. Registration

Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center tour on your own

1–3 p.m. Opening General Session

“Welcome,” Jennie Chinn, KSHS Executive Director (SHPO)

“History of Hutchinson,” Gary Hughes, Hutchinson

“Sustainable Stewardship: Promoting the Preservation Ethic to Combat Climate Change,” Patrice Frey, NTHP

3–3:30 p.m. Sessions

Track A: “If These Stones Could Talk,” Julia Manglitz

Track B: “Barn Survey Results,” Brenda Spencer, Christy Davis

Track C: “Tales from the 106 Files: Saving the Claim House”

4:15–5:15 p.m. Sessions

Track A: “Statehouse Update,” Treanor Architects

Track B: “SAT/Preserve America Grants,” Megan Brown, NPS

5:30 p.m. Kansas Preservation Alliance Reception – Awards and Silent Auction

Private screening of *Picnic* at Fox Theatre

Friday

8–10 a.m. Breakfast at Wolcott House

10:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Panel Discussion/Lunch

“Tax Credits for Everyone,” Katrina Ringler, SHPO, moderator

1–3 p.m. Workshop

“Hands On Window Workshop,” Mike Goans, Dennis Brown (please pre-register)

1–2:15 p.m. Sessions

Track A: “Case Study: Historic Green Church,” James Ward, College of Charleston

Track C: “Tips for a Successful HTF Grant Application”

2:30–3 p.m. Sessions

Track A: “Adaptive Use,” Nina Miley

Track C: “National Register: How to List a Property”

3:30–5 p.m. Tours

Downtown Hutchinson – Leaders: Jim Seitnater and Mark Rasette

Historic Homes, Houston Whiteside District –

Leaders: Barry Law and Amy Farley, Hutchinson

6 p.m. Reception/Banquet/Live Auction

Keynote address “Roadside Architecture,” Dr. Carroll Van West, Middle Tennessee State University

8–11 p.m. King Midas Band

Saturday

7:30–9 a.m. Breakfast

All events in Grand Prairie Hotel

9–10:45 a.m. Sessions

Track A: “Rehabbing the Recent Past,” Angela Shearer, NPS

Track B: “Grant Programs,” Amy Cole, NTHP

Track C: “New Construction in Historic Areas,” Julie Weisgerber, SHPO staff

11–11:30 a.m. Sessions

Track A: “Geophysics and Archaeology,” Dr. Robert Hoard

Track B: “Partnership Historic Sites,” Kristen Johnston, SHPO staff

Track C: “Surveying Historic Resources,” Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO

12–1 Lunch

Announcement of 2009 conference

1–4 p.m. Optional tours

Kansas Cosmosphere & Space Center

Kansas State Fairgrounds

Schedule subject to change

Track A: Professional/Technical

Track B: Education/Hands-on

Track C: SHPO programs

Happenings in Kansas

Kansas Museum of History –

Forces of Nature

Special Exhibits Gallery • Topeka

Now through January 4, 2009

6425 SW 6th Avenue • kansasmuseum@kshs.org

This display will examine natural disasters and their impact on Kansans' lives. Join us for close up look at the effect of earth, water, wind, and fire.

Kansas Anthropological Association Annual Meeting

April 12, 2008 • 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Guaranty State Bank, 201 South Mill Street, Beloit

The meeting will include business and talks.

Museum Store – Spring Cleaning Sale

April 18-20 • Topeka

6425 SW 6th Avenue • store@kshs.org

Take advantage of great discounts as we make room for new merchandise.

KSHS Artifact Identification and Archeology

Lab Tour Day

April 19, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. • Center for Historical Research lobby • 6425 SW 6th Avenue • Topeka

Archeologists will identify artifacts and give conservation advice for the public. No appraisals are given.

Kaw Mission – Kaw Councils 2008

April 19 & May 17 • Council Grove

500 North Mission • kawmission@kshs.org

Our Fabulous Flint Hills: The Hills Are Alive! series highlights cultural, natural, and historic resources.

State Preservation Conference

April 24 – 26 • Hutchinson

cultural_resources@kshs.org

"Past-O-Rama: Green Light for Preservation" focuses on recent past preservation as well as green and sustainability issues buildings.

Kansas History Day

April 26 • Topeka

Washburn University • education@kshs.org

Sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society, History Day encourages students to study history and exercise their critical thinking skills.

Historic Sites Board of Review Meeting

May 3, 2008 • Topeka

Kansas Historical Society Museum Classrooms

6425 SW 6th Avenue • cultural_resources@kshs.org

Cottonwood Ranch – Sheepdog Trials

May 3-4 • Studley • cotton@kshs.org

Join us as sheep dogs from across the country compete by rounding up herds of sheep.

Kansas Archeology Training Program

May 31 – June 15 • Near Republic

cultural_resources@kshs.org

Learning about Cultures: Past and Present

June 16-20, 2008 • Manhattan

vwulfkuhle@kshs.org

A workshop for educators.



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